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Maj. John D. Servis

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I am a little puzzled to understand why the Navy has not insisted on an experimental project to study this subject more carefully. The experimental work done at Operation Crossroads indicates that the problem was not a serious one. There remained, however, a good deal of hysterical thinking, and restrictions were imposed which today certainly seem rather silly, particularly so as they did not appear to conform with the observed facts. The regulations covering this subject were revised in 1951. Actually these give ships' commanders considerable leeway of judgment in giving operational clearance for the ships. In the past the Navy representatives have seemed unwilling to avail themselves of this flexibility.

Consideration of this problem leads us to another one which is perhaps even broader in scope. As you realize, at Operation Ivy some rather serious problems arose because the rad safe officers for the various Task Groups all seemed to operate according to different philosophies and different rules. In contemplating the operation as a whole, these problems perhaps do not loom very large, but I feel very strongly that the situation should be explained to CJTF-7, with a recommendation for future action. I feel strongly that the Task Force Rad Safe Officer, Lt. Col. House, should have far more than an advisory position. I feel that he should have actual authority over the rad safe officers for the various Task Groups or at least be prepared to furnish recommendations to CJTF-7 which shall subsequently be issued as orders to the Task Groups and their rad safe officers. As has been the case in the past, you as Commander of TU-7 in TG 7.1 will be the one who will furnish Lt. Col. House with most of the information on which his recommendations will be based.

The work of Lt. Col. House, as well as your own work, will be greatly simplified if you are provided with the necessary support in obtaining as rad safe officers those men known to be qualified for their jobs. I also hope that more consideration can be given to providing more adequate working accommodations for the rad safe organization. In my opinion the accommodations on the Rendova were far from adequate, and Commander Maynard's working space on the Estes certainly left a great deal to be desired.

I hope that you and Lt. Col. House will continue to feel perfectly free to request our assistance at any time. We do not pretend to know all the answers, but I do think that we have here in Los Alamos a group of people who combine extensive experience in past tests with the most expert knowledge in the fields of health physics and radiologic safety. The latter is our full-time job, and we just happen to have done more in the field of test operations than anyone else. We have no desire to insinuate ourselves into Task Force affairs, but our responsibilities to Laboratory personnel prevent us from being completely disinterested. We have thoroughly enjoyed our associations with Task Force personnel and only hope that we can continue in the same spirit of cooperation and friendship.

REPOSITORY

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COLLECTION

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Castle General

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